



MAY, 1983

The I/O Connector

The Newsletter of the San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

HELLO

We really had a great meeting last month.

Ron Miller did an outstanding job explaining computer languages. We hope to have more tutorials in the future. We also had some good program demos. I hope to have some more programs to demo at the next meeting.

We have several copies of an ATARI publication on the "care and feeding of program recorders." They will be available from the main library.

I want to thank Jim Lawson for helping out with the North-West County group. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a report of the first meeting. The club will support this group the same as the North County Group, with our newsletter, library and financial help.

We are outgrowing our meeting place and are in the process of looking for a new, larger place. One of the places we are looking at is the County Educational Center on Linda Vista Road. If you know of other places available please call me or one of the other officers. We need a room that will hold 200-300 persons.

I hope to go to the CES show in Chicago in June and bring back news of great and wonderous things from ATARI. There are rumors about expansion ports, \$299 prices etc. I hope to bring back some good news in the hardware and software areas.

The Board decided to have a booth at the San Diego Computer Fair November 5th and 6th. This Fair is sponsored by the San Diego Computer Society. We will need someone to chair the booth. Please contact me if you are interested.

Brenda Lantow has volunteered to form a "Kids Group" or SIG for 5 to 9th graders. If you are interested please contact her at 226-3306. This will give the more experienced young people a chance to help others as well as receiving help themselves plus sharing common interests.

Randy Turner of Sega Electronics will hold a Graphic Oriented Assembly Language class starting in June. I will have more details later. If your are interested, contact me and I will put your name on the list.

For you Hams out there, check out the Amateur Radio Operator Users' Group called The ATARI Microcomputer Net. They put out a great hardware oriented newsletter. If you are interested, contact Jack McKirgan II, WD8BN6, Call (614) 869-3597. The newsletter is \$10 a year. Write 4749 S.R. 207 N.E., Washington C.H., OH 43160.

That's all for now.

EDITOR'S OUTPUT

Looks like a good issue.

Ten pages this time around, full of the right stuff. I've been fooling around with a modem and terminal program. Finally figured out how to download and save information to disk. It still amazes me that something so easy can seem so difficult when one is just beginning. The VisiCalc and APX articles are the offspring of information downloaded from a special Atari BBS. I'm planning to get myself hooked up to CompuServe as soon as possible. If any readers have had bad/good experiences with this service, please write to me about it.

I've developed a new column this issue: TID-BITS. How do you feel about rumors? TID-BITS will feature rumors and prognostications concerning Atari and their computers. Most of what you'll read there has a fairly substantial basis in truth, although some "flashes" may just be a flash in the pan. Personally, I like rumors. Just as I'd dream of what I'd "do with a computer," hardware and software rumors keep the dream alive. And if a few come true, great! Also premiering in this issue is the Calendar section. It brings you information of upcoming events and meetings. If you know of any events that would be of interest to the group, let me know. Contributing Editor Brian Ritter has submitted a polished book review. Thanks, Brian. Kudos to Steve Roquemore for his review on WP software. There were a few more submissions than there was room this time, so watch for your articles next time around.

What do you get out of the newsletter? The people who synthesize the newsletter and ultimately the club bust their collective fannies to promote Atari personal computing and make the club a meaningful, informative and entertaining experience for everyone. Quite honestly, they all enjoy what they're doing, or they certainly wouldn't spend the many hours a month doing it. But a sense of collective concern is missing. Does the newsletter serve a useful purpose? Can we answer a question for you and in turn answer it for all the readers? Do you have something positive or negative to say about Atari? Write to your newsletter. Tell the club about your favorite software. Send us a picture of your computer setup at home. How do you use your machine and how has it affected your life?

See you at the meeting.

INSIDE

BASIC PROGRAM

OFFICERS' REPORTS

BOOK REVIEW

WP SOFTWARE REVIEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOFTWARE PREVIEW

TID-BITS

BEST BUYS

UPDATE

CALENDAR

B/S/T

SECRETARY'S REPORT

April Meeting.

Dick opened the meeting at 6:45, as usual and made several announcements (Noted below).

Library Report:

The SDACE BBS is now up with a 692K disk storage capacity. Programs from the library will be on line for you to download to your computer. Once again, the library hours have changed. They are now Monday thru Thursday from 7PM to 9PM. Please call for an appointment.

Beginner's SIG:

The BSIG has been reformatted to be a beginner's workshop. Bring in the programs you are working on and we'll see what can be done to fix them up. Those of you out there who are just starting on the ATARI should give us a visit on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at 4 PM out at BITS & BYTES in Lemon Grove. Thanks again to Jo and family for giving us a place to meet with six computers ready and waiting to be used!

North County Group:

Still meeting at the same time and place. Those of you who like to play, show off or learn should be there.

Announcements:

-- ANTIC Magazine cover contest. Design a cover for ANTIC with your ATARI and you could win a \$300 prize!

-- First Star Software is offering a \$500 reward to anyone turning in a good software designer to them.

SAN DIEGO ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

is an independent, nonprofit organization and user's group with no connection to ATARI Corporation, a Warner Communication Company. Membership fees are currently \$10.00 annually from January 1983 to January 1984. Membership includes free access to the computer program library, subscription to "The I/O Connector", and classes, when held. Permission to reprint articles in any noncommercial publication is permitted, without written authorization, as long as proper credit is given.

Commercial Advertising Rates:

Full Page — \$40.00; Half Page — \$20.00; Quarter Page — \$10.00;
Business Card — \$5.00

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NEWSLETTER ADDRESS

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BULLETIN BOARD

SDACEBBS - 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. 447-8143

SUBMISSIONS

Are most welcome. Deadline is the 28th of each month.

-- CLEO is a job database available over your modem, if you're looking for work, or better work, contact Dick for the phone number and other details.

-- Sega needs people to test their video games. If you like the idea of getting paid to play the newest games, give them a ring. Sorry, but all testing must be done at their offices.

-- Your ANTIC subscription hasn't arrived? Give them a call. Many addresses have been lost in a changeover to an out of house mailing label service.

-- Those of you who ordered an ANALOG subscription will be receiving ANALOG #11 soon.

-- Need a copy of the Technical User's Notes? They are available at Software Center and Software Only. Next Meeting: The New Chris Crawford tapes and Sam Cohen from "Don't Ask Software"!

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Well, it's that time of the month again and time for me to let you know what's going on in the club's library.

As I announced at the last club meeting, the club's BBS is up and running—well that's not exactly right. I have found that the BBS doesn't like anyone accessing the disk directories. Hopefully, with a little help, I will have this problem fixed by our next general meeting if not before. If you want to find out if the BBS is working before then, call the BBS number after 9:00 p.m. If you get the normal information message, the BBS is not working yet (or I went to bed early and forgot to turn it on!). At any rate, bear with me, and I'll get it working as soon as I can. In the mean time I have been collecting programs from CompuServe and the other BBS's around the country, so when I do get the BBS back on-line, there will be quite a few new programs (I hope).

For those of you that are in the market for a 850 interface, I have some good news and some bad news. First—the bad news: there is a three month waiting list for these, due in part to ATARI's move to the Ukraine. Now the good news: if you buy either the ATR 8000 or MICRO-MAIN FRAME you don't need the interface plus you will be able to run CP/M (Oh Joy). If you want to find out more about these units, talk to Nestor Sanchez (273-5005) about the ATR 8000, and our present Prez about the MICRO-MAIN FRAME.

For those of you interested in joining CompuServe, they just started a thirty-five dollar yearly membership fee, in addition to their ten dollar monthly minimum (that is, if you don't use the service for one month's time, you will be charged for two hours).

Before I go, let me give you the times that various services of the library are open (you may want to save this).

BBS HOURS (When Working) -

9:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m., Monday through Friday

MAIN LIBRARY (When Working) -

7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday

See you all at the next meeting or on the BBS (when working).

**Paul Caesar's
BEST BUYS**

Happy May Atari fans!

Spring (and a lot more sun) has hit San Diego and a few stores are clearing out old stock. Dow on El Cajon Blvd. bought out Video 2000 and has a few Atari hardware and software items. Computer Control Central in Pacific Beach is selling boxes of Elephant disks for \$18.99. Online Computing in La Mesa is closing out the Atari line and may have some items left at discounted prices. Dimensional Software has been advertising a sale on recreational Atari software and may still have a sale when this reaches you. Toys-R-Us is now selling the Atari 400 with a rebate that nets the unit an amazing \$78.89. Our local newspapers (Union & Tribune) have a classified section listing for computers which has very up to date information on who is having sales; I've found some excellent bargains this way. If you want to know what's happening and where, the newspaper is still the best way to find out.

As a guide to this month's reprint of the updated discount list; neither SDACE or myself endorses any store listed. We give you this information so you can hopefully have a wider choice of places to shop and can find the best deal for you. Many of the department stores have sales with very low prices, but none of these I've been to have informed sales people. Smaller stores generally have more information and competitive prices. Stores which give special discounts to you as a member are shown "W/CARD" in the list. I have tried to designate what kind of merchandise is carried in each store in the "HARD-SOFT" column. If you know of any stores or good deals I've missed, please let me know at the meeting. Till then, enjoy spring and good computing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH-WEST COUNTY A.C.E. GROUP

The initial meeting of the North-West County group was held on Thursday, April 7, 1983 at Infotainment Computers, 257-6 North El Camino Real, Encinitas. Ed Vergara, General Manager of Infotainment, was good enough to allow us use of his excellent meeting facilities.

Tom Bennett initiated the meeting although he is being transferred out of the area and will not be able to benefit from them. Thanks, Tom, for organizing the first meeting.

People present at the meeting were: Tom Bennett, Brian Ritter, Rich Rykert, Ron Baldridge, Jim Lawson, Bennett Smith, Todd Munk and Carey Holzman. Two or three others were not able to make the meeting due to a schedule conflict for Thursday nights.

The group decided that the next meeting would be held at 9 am Saturday, May 14, 1983 at Infotainment Computers, 257-6 North El Camino Real, Encinitas. Feel free to join us.

Jim Lawson (579-4974) is acting as temporary President of the group and may be contacted for further information. The group will elect a permanent President at the May 14 meeting. Bennett Smith has agreed to act as Librarian for the group.

DEALER	ADDRESS	HARD/ SOFT?	DISCOUNT?	COMMENT:
ABC PRODUCTS	8868 CLAIREMONT MESA BL. S.D. 268-3537	SUPPLIES	NO LOW PRICES	DISKS-CASSETTES-ETC
APPLE COUNTRY	PO BOX 1099 JULIAN, CA 92036 765-0239	BOTH	25-30%	MAIL OR PHONE ORDER
ARDAN	880 ARNELE AVE. E.C. 579-7722	BOTH	10-15%	ATARI 400 & SOFTWARE
ATV	8464 COMMERCE AVE. S.D. 578-5516	REPAIR	NO	REPAIR OF 400, 410, 800, & B10
B. DALTON BOOKS	ALL LOCATIONS (SEE BOOK)	BOOKS	NO	SOFTWARE AT MISSION VALLEY
BEST PRODUCTS	7938 EL CAJON BL. L.M. 698-7244	BOTH	10-15%	ATARI 400 & SOFTWARE
COMPUTER AGE	4688 CONVOY DR. S.D. 565-4042	BOTH	10-15%	ATARI 800 & 400
COMPUTER CONTROL CNTR	5005 CASS ST. P.B. 273-5005	BOTH	5-25%	REPAIR AND CONSULTING
COMPUTER KONTROL	10761 WOODSIDE SANTEE 448-9240	SUPPLIES	LOW PRICES	RIBBONS DISKS AND SUPPLIES
COMPUTER THINK TANK	3947 GOVERNOR DR. S.D. 457-0677	BOTH	10-25%	VERY HELPFUL
CONSUMER COMPUTER	8314 PARKWAY DR. L.M. 465-8888	BOTH	10% W/CARD	DISCOUNT ON ATARI RELATED
DIMENSIONAL SOFTWARE	3954 CLAIREMONT MESA BL. S.D. 275-4243	BOTH	NONE	LARGE SELECTION OF SOFTWARE
DISCOUNT DEPOT PRICE BAZAAR	1440 BROADWAY C.V. 691-1284	BOTH	15-20%	ATARI 800 & 400
DISNEY ELECTRONICS	4341 TWAIN AVE. S.D. 281-0285	BOTH	5-30% CARD	ADDING MORE SOFTWARE
EQUINE COMPUTING	PO BOX 704 BONITA 479-6253 EVES	BOTH	COST+10%	ALL ATARI PRODUCTS
FEDCO	1725 N. EUCLID S.D. 262-2411	BOTH	"GOOD"	"LARGE SELECTION"
FEDERATED GROUP	3146 SPORTS ARENA BL. S.D. 223-5301	BOTH	WILL DEAL SHOW LOW PRICE- ASK TO BETTER	
INFOTAINMENT COMPUTERS	2576 N. EL CAMINO REAL ENCIN. 436-0693	BOTH	20% W/CARD	NORTH COUNTY
JC PENNEY'S	MOST LOCATIONS (SEE BOOK)	BOTH	NONE	WATCH FOR SALES!
KIRK PAPER	9737 AERO DR. S.D. 268-3282	SUPPLIES	NO	LOW PRICES-PAPER-LABELS-ETC
MAILCOMP	9434 CHESAPEAKE S.D. 277-8002	BOTH	20-25%	VERY HELPFUL
MAY CO.	MOST LOCATIONS (SEE BOOK)	BOTH	NO	ATARI 800, 400 & ACCESS.
ON LINE COMPUTER CTR	I-8 & JACKSON L.M. 463-0397	REPAIR	10-15%	- REPAIR ATARI COMPUTERS
PACIFIC STEREO	ALL LOCATIONS (SEE BOOK)	RIBBONS	NO	WATCH PAPER FOR SALES
PIBBONS UNLIMITED	4476 30TH STREET S.D. 280-0328	BOTH	10-15%	GOOD RIBBON PRICES-NICE PEOPLE
SIERRA NATIONAL CORP.	5037 RUFFNER ST. S.D. 277-4810	BOTH	10-15%	ATARI REPAIR STATION
SOFTWARE CENTRE INT.	4170 CONVOY ST. S.D. 576-1424	SOFT	NONE	GOOD SELECTION-MAGS-BOOKS
SOFTWARE ONLY	8199 CLAIREMONT MESA BL. S.D. 569-1666	SOFT	NONE	GOOD SELECTION
SOFTWARE CENTRE	5232 JACKSON DR. L.M. 462-3900	SOFT	10% W/CARD	DISCOUNT AT THIS LOCATION ONLY
SOUTHLAND COMPUTER SYS	6972 UNIVERSITY AVE S.D. 286-6262	BOTH	10-15%	PREVIOUSLY A.S.C.
SUPER CITY	ALL LOCATIONS (SEE BOOK)	SUPPLIES	LOW PRICES	DISKS-PAPER
TARGET STORES	ALL LOCATIONS (SEE BOOK)	BOTH	NO	ATARI 400, 800 & ACCESS.
THE BROADWAY	ALL LOCATIONS (SEE BOOK)	BOTH	NO	ATARI AND RELATED PRODUCTS
THE COMPUTER STORE	209 3RD AVE. C.V. 619-422-6785	BOTH	5-10% CARD	ALSO SEE DISNEY ELECT.
TOYS-R-US	ALL LOCATIONS (SEE BOOK)	BOTH	15-20% OFF	ATARI 400 AND SOFTWARE ONLY
VIDEO CONCEPTS	ALL LOCATIONS (SEE BOOK)	BOTH	NO	ATARI 800 & 400

DEALER	ADDRESS	SOFT/ HARD?	DISCOUNT?	COMMENT:
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CALENDAR

What: San Diego Computer Showcase Expo
When: May 12-15, 1983 (Thurs, Fri, Sat: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
Where: San Diego Convention & Performing Arts Center
Price: \$7.50 at the door, check Computer Stores for discount tickets.

What: San Diego Atari Computer Enthusiasts Monthly Meeting
When: 6:30 p.m.
3rd Monday of each month
- May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15
Where: North Park Recreational Center
4044 Idaho Street
Social Room
Contact: Dick Hiatt, 463-8460 evenings.

What: North County A.C.E.
When: 6:00 p.m.
3rd Tuesday of each month
- May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16
Where: 8081 Mira Mesa Blvd.
(Church across street and west of Mira Mesa Cinemas.)
Contact: Ron Miller, 748-7195

What: North-West County A.C.E.
Monthly Meeting
When: 9:00 a.m.
3rd Saturday of each month
- May 14, June 18, July 16, August 20
Where: Infotainment Computers
Contact: Jim Lawson, 579-4974

What: Deadline for I/O Connector Newsletter
When: 28th of each month
Where: c/o David Schultz
4037 Honeycutt Street
San Diego, CA 92109

TID-BITS

RUMORS AND TIDBITS

- From the loftiest silver-windowed skyscrapers of executive San Diego comes news of a new Stock Market Analysis program. This sophisticated program is rumored to be in the works, backed by Synapse. Also in the mill is the word that the Atari Stock Market Analysis program (bow wow wow) is soon to be decommissioned.

- MAJOR ATARI HARDWARE HINT...

A NEW COMPUTER- that's right, you read it here first. It will essentially be a repackaged 1200XL. This time around, the critter is rumored to have an expansion port (hello, Bit 3), a serial port, 64K of memory expandable to 128K, built in Disk Drive and Modem, and an 8088 microprocessor, all for the pulse-quickenning price of \$299. (Am I dreaming or just pulling your leg?) Still a lot of buzz about the Atari 3 1/2" Double Density Disk Drive. There is no confirmation on this one, no production schedule. ALSO: Coming soon- an Atari Business Computer to rival some of Commodore's finer machines. Watch for a big splash at the June CES!

-On the way: an 80 column COLOR board for Atari.

-Arriving soon for S.D.A.C.E. members: a Kid's S.I.G. (Special Interest Group). For ages up to Junior High.

-Fact or Fiction?: A chip to allow VCS software to run on 400/800/1200?

-No we don't endorse piracy, but have you heard of the phone number in Boston called "Pirates Cove"? This BBS provides software before it hits the stores. Don't mention my name . . .

-Hello to our Canadian friend Steve Soltese, of Dorval, Quebec, an honorary international member of the San Diego A.C.E. He's the only Atari user in a heavy Apple town. Keep reading, Steve.

-Nestor proposes to sell David Helsby an 810 Drive for 10% over cost. Such a deal . . .

SOFTWARE ADVANCE NOTICE ---

-A noted member of the S.D.A.C.E. is developing an Xth generation Word Processing package for Synapse. The package, written in Forth, will have more bells and whistles than a belly dancer with a lost dog. Some features include a real-time clock, a direct connect built-in terminal program for modem communication, a split-screen editor in 40 columns. The BIG news is that this marvelous program is but one of a package of programs comming from Synapse that will revolutionize the Atari. This package will feature interactive software, including the W.P. package, a spread sheet, and a file manager database. Each program will be able to "talk" to the other, along the lines of some of the newer IBM software. Look to CES in June for a preview, another year before you can own it.

PROJECT FALCON? --

-The "Real People" newspaper of tomorrow, USA Today, reports that Atari is busy with its Project Falcon. An advanced Telecommunications product, it is said to allow the user to call her computer from remote locations and use it to control and monitor her home. Perhaps this will allow you to spend more time at the office. Just what we all need.

-Finally, the boss says we're too big for mutual crutches. Seems like our days at North Park may be numbered, in favor of a larger room.

Please Note!

This is your newsletter...
Please contribute to it!

SOFTWARE REVIEW

AtariWriter (Rev. 7)

A Software Review by Don Perkins

After using Letter Perfect for a year and a half, you don't realize what a pleasure it was to use AtariWriter. Instead of an article-style review, I will give you my likes and dislikes in a list format.

Special Likes -----

-- The screen setting is columns 2 through 39. What a joy not to guess the contents of the first two columns.

-- Print Preview. This feature is worth the weight of the cartridge in gold. With a typewriter, you live with a bad format or start over. With Letter Perfect you print out the letter and go back to re-edit the format. With AtariWriter you can see the document's format BEFORE it's printed.

-- The line cursor. I know it's no big deal, but as a person who has worked with mainframes for years, it's nice to see that friendly little line instead of the ugly, hard to find, white blotch.

-- The search and replace function is well-done.

-- The [Cntrl-C] [Cntrl-C] for blocking text to the right, something that most ATARI word processors can't do, and with a most logical keying sequence.

-- The [Option-arrow] is such a sensible key combination. It's really nice in the Preview mode.

-- The allowance for half-line spacing was a wise choice.

-- The [Cntrl-Caps] and [Cntrl-U] are a wonderful convenience.

-- Headers and footers with page numbers! And page numbers that can be "34" or "-34-" or "--34--" or ".34."!

-- Section headings are nicely done, something I haven't seen since I worked with RUMOFF.

-- The allowance for drivers for other printers will be appreciated when they come out. (I am using an Epson.)

-- The ability to send a document to ANY device. As a MoDem user I give a most hardy thanks.

-- Constant operator double-checking. It makes the program VERY user-friendly.

-- The form printing command is nice, but will a utility program for mailmerge be made available?

-- The merge function is very nice.

-- I've found the move, duplicate and delete block commands extremely useful. Most of the word processors and editors I've used, (including UNIX's NED), are not able to duplicate a block of text.

-- This review used page wait. Need I say more?

-- Printer control, [Cntrl-O], uses a decimal number instead of the actual character. Much better than having to look up a second table or changing over to BASIC to find out the character representation.

-- Default files for loading and saving are a blessing!

Gripes -----

-- Why have wild cards been disallowed? It has been intentionally suppressed, since the wildcards are a part of the File Manager (DOS).

-- When selecting DELETE, LOAD, or SAVE from the menu, the index should appear. As a programmer, I know that this would require a few more JSR's and RTS's to the indexing routine and the routine to place the menu on the screen, less than 30 bytes of added code.

-- You should have the ability to search for control characters.

Other Comments

-- A Summary Card, made of thin card stock and laminated will be a must with all the different key codes. Something along the lines of the appendix to APX's Atari Program/Text Editor.

-- What is the logic of when to use OPTION, SELECT or CTRL? I think that this should be defined in the manual.

-- I like the Letter Perfect style uses of [Cntrl-A] and [Cntrl-Z]. Why aren't they documented in the manual? (If they are in there, I couldn't find them. I typed them on accident before I realized I wasn't using Letter Perfect.)

I can hardly wait 'til AtariWriter comes on the market. I've already advised several people to wait until it comes out to buy a word processor. As you can see, my complaints are few, but I think them to be quite significant and simple to change.

SOFTWARE REVIEW

SCRIPTOR

Word Processor from
COMPUTE! Magazine, April 1983
Reviewed by Stephen G. Roquemore

The Scriptor Word Processor from COMPUTE! Magazine is a full-fledged word processing program, written by Charles Brannon of the COMPUTE! staff. It is a program which will satisfy all the word processing needs of most users. The program is copyrighted by Small Systems Services, Inc., the company which produces COMPUTE! Magazine.

I have used Scriptor to produce my own resume on my Epson MX-80, and it does look like a professional job.

The commands are based on the use of CONTROL key sequences; CONTROL-A advances the text display one (screen) page; CONTROL-B backs it up the same amount. There is a HELP screen available just by entering CONTROL-?. When RETURN is entered, the display returns to the text you were working on.

The ESC key displays a "Mini-DOS" function in the top window line; you merely enter one of the high-lighted letters and follow the prompts to accomplish standard DOS functions.

The START key will 'home' the cursor; depressing the key twice will position the cursor at the beginning of your text. The SELECT key allows you to recall or save a text file using your disk drive. Depending on the current position of the cursor, entering SHIFT-CLEAR allows various line deletion options, including deletion of a range of lines previously defined using the CONTROL-D key. You may copy these defined lines to any point in the file by moving the cursor to the desired point, then entering CONTROL-L.

Continued on Next Page . . .

Entering CONTROL-K erases all tab settings; CONTROL-Q quits the program; CONTROL-F allows you to enter a line of special "format" commands which can address the special features of almost any printer. The program is coded for the Epson MX-80, but lines are provided in the article to substitute in the program so you may use an ATARI B25 printer. CONTROL-P activates the printing of your file.

Complete documentation of the functions available can be found starting on page 56 of the April COMPUTE!. I might add that the normal Atari cursor movement function are all available.

The advantages for most users are its simplicity of use, and most needed functions are provided; the drawback is that some functions process rather slowly, since it is written in Atari Basic; the printing can be agonizingly slow if you have a long document. The appropriate functions also have protection built-in, as they ask you "Are You Sure?" you want to do this before it actually does it; you must reply "Y" to the prompt before the function is executed. You can also chain files together for ease in printing long documents.

This review was written entirely using Scriptor, in less than one hour. In my opinion, if you need a word processor but DON'T need all the bells and whistles of the fancy commercial programs, then you owe it to yourself to investigate this program - remember

IT'S F-R-E-E!

If you would like a working copy of the program for Epson printers, I will copy my version for you if you supply me with an Atari-formatted disk. I can be reached during working hours at 237-7500, ext. 291.

ATARI UPDATE

APX - Atari Program Exchange Recent Award Winning Programmers and Programs

Recently, the Atari Program Exchange (APX), announced the winners of its quarterly awards for best user-written home computer programs. Eight individuals were awarded a total of more than \$14,000 in Atari equipment for designing original programs in the educational systems, home management, and home entertainment areas.

The winners, who ranged from a recent high school graduate to a 44-year-old Ph.D., were selected from 230 entries submitted over a three month period. Winning software is marketed through APX and is available to consumers directly from Atari dealers and retailers, through the quarterly APX Catalog.

"The Atari Programming Exchange helps our home computer users in two ways," said John Cavalier, President of the Home Computer Division of Atari, Inc. "First, those who program have a chance to add to their income if we accept and market their software through APX. More importantly, all Home Computer users benefit from the wide range of high quality, imaginative programs we make available through this service."

During 1982, Atari awarded \$100,000 in equipment and cash to home computer users. Individuals whose programs are accepted by APX receive royalties on sales.

EDUCATIONAL CATEGORY

1ST PRIZE: TEASERS BY TOBBS

Author : Thomas C. O'Brian Ph.D. is an educator at Southern Illinois University.

Designed for children, ages eight and up, it includes lessons in addition and multiplication. Increasingly challenging practice is led by a character named Tobbs.

2ND PRIZE: MY SPELLING EASEL

Author: Don Rohr works in elementary education, and has an M.A. in Educational Research from Stanford.

Designed for three to ten-year olds, it allows children to paint landscapes on their home computer by typing letters and spelling words.

3RD PRIZE: THREE-R MATH CLASSROOM KIT

Author: Don Rohr

Designed for in-school use, grades K-8, it includes worksheets and gradebook. The program has 101 difficulty levels covering addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. It rivals similar, higher-priced packages.

HOME MANAGEMENT CATEGORY

1ST PRIZE: ATSPELLER

Author: R. Stanley Kistler is a chemical engineer who developed this program so he could have the luxury of using it at home.

This program takes any text file produced from a variety of Atari-compatible products, and checks spelling against a 30,000 word dictionary. Technical or other special jargon can be added.

SYSTEMS

1ST PRIZE: HEX-A-BUG

Author: David Kano is a freelance professional programmer who developed this user-friendly program for his own use.

This is a hexadecimal-based, screen-oriented assembly language debugging tool for ATARI Home Computers. It allows slowing down, or stopping a program to find bugs.

CONSUMER CATEGORY

FIRST PRIZE: GETAWAY

Author: Mark Reid is a chemical engineer from Charleston, West Virginia. He is a 1981 winner for Downhill, which is among the best selling APX games.

Find the loot and stash it in your hideout before the law nabs you as you dash through a scrolling maze of 35 screens.

SECOND PRIZE: CATERPIGGLE

Author: Scott Ludwig is a 18-year-old hobbyist living in Hawaii. APX presently carries another of his programs, Quarxon.

Maneuver caterpiggle through a maze, gobbling up slithering snakes and fending off Serpent Security Guards -- all to musical accompaniment!

3RD PRIZE: FINGERSPELLING

Author: Dewey Garton has been interested in sign language for many years. Realizing that a major obstacle the beginner faces is his first contact with a deaf person, he utilized the graphics ability of an ATARI Home Computer to create a non-threatening program.

Designed for ages four and up, this program teaches the art of finger spelling -- a form of sign language. Practice and drills can be done with individual letters or words, at differing speeds.

RUN THIS

```
1 D=0:GRAPHICS D:OPEN #5,4,0,"K
":POKE 752,1
2 D=D+1:? "4INSERT DISK #";D;"
AND PRESS ANY KEY":GET #5,K
3 CLOSE #1:TRAP 5:XIO 254,#1,0,
0,"D:.*."
4 FOR I=1 TO 250:NEXT I:GOTO 2
5 CLOSE #1:? "4FORMAT DISK #";D;" W
ILL NOT FORMAT!!":GOTO 2
6 REM □ = ESC-CTRL-2
    (RING BELL)
7 REM ↓ = ESC-CTRL-=
    (DOWN ARROW)
```

Have you ever had the time-consuming chore of formatting a box of floppys? If you do it from Atari DOS, you'll use eight keystrokes per formatting. This little program (courtesy of the Huntsville Atari User's group, November, '82) will format a disk with only one keystroke per disk. It will format any number of disks, will not format write protected disks, and will count the number of disks formatted.

Remember, you don't have to type in lines 6 and 7. They're listed only to insure you understand those two symbols.

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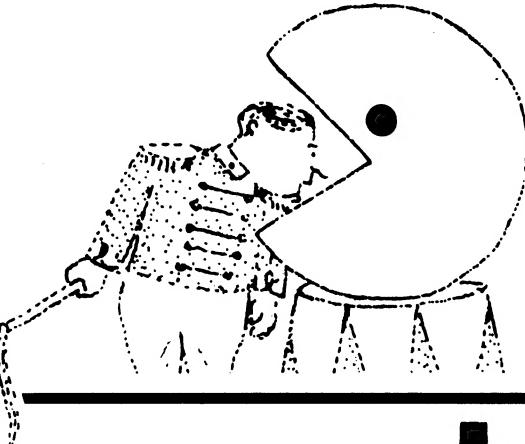
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BOOK REVIEW

Mapping the Atari

by Ian Chadwick

Introduction by Bill Wilkinson

Publisher: COMPUTE! Books

Price: \$14.95

I'm a glutton for Atari books. I buy a lot of them—heck, I buy them all—in a seemingly unending search for that magnificent tome which can explain it all to me. Out there somewhere, I am convinced, are the magical words that will dance my fingers across the keyboard and stand my computer on its ear. I've sliced the pages from *Byte* magazine; I've pretended to read the Operating System listing; I've been fooled time and again by maledictive typos, misanthropic publishers and silken tongued miscreants. But I remain true to my quest, and at times I get close.

One of the things I would really like to glue my eyeballs to is a good cross-referenced index to the specific features of Atari computers. Also, the perfect companion piece would be a compilation of detailed explanations for every memory location giving its OS mnemonic, its primary functions, possible applications and, again, cross-referencing to other related memory locations.

Last month's release from COMPUTE! Books written by Ian Chadwick and called *Mapping the Atari* comes quite close to the above-mentioned ideal. Over 200 pages are efficiently organized within a spiral binding which allows it to lie flat and stay flat. (All the Atari books from COMPUTE! come bound that way, much to their credit; wouldn't it be nice if all computer books would just behave?) Inside there are two different indexes included. The first lists the OS mnemonic labels alphabetically—a time saver when trying to figure out all those nifty program listings in various magazines, etc. The other index is arranged according to subject; and—get this—it's a full eight double-columned pages of extensive cross-referencing. Most of your college text books aren't nearly that thorough.

The actual descriptions themselves are definitive. Many are one or two fact filled pages long; and they don't stop there—many contain bibliographical references to several other books and past magazine articles which one can peruse to any depth desired. By themselves most descriptions are quite understandable and so thorough that there remains little need to search these other resources. Sometimes for the tougher concepts a short BASIC program is used to illustrate an important feature where an immediate hands-on tutorial can allow you to own that idea once and for all. There are also internal references to other memory locations when they are related, and you are encouraged to read those descriptions as well. Thumbing from location to location moves rapidly since the top of each leaf boldly displays the memory addresses for that page. Further down the sheet each location description is prefaced with its address expressed in both decimal and hex notation and followed by its OS mnemonic label.

The introduction by Bill Wilkinson of Optimized System Software, creators of both Atari 8K BASIC and BASIC A-plus, gives an entertaining and enlightening glimpse into the way to PEEK and POKE in seven different programming languages: BASIC, BASIC A-plus, Forth, C, Pascal, PILOT and Assembler/Machine language. Wilkinson concludes, "I expect to use this book often."

Well, in the month I've had it I have already used this book often. I expect that I will continue to save a great deal of time doing so, thanks to its well planned format and execution. However, I'm not sure if an absolute beginner could get as much out of this book right away; it just doesn't quite get down on its knees to explain things. In fact, one of the few typos in the book was in the beginners' introductory notes which tried to give a cursory explanation of hexadecimal numbers. It equated 255 (decimal) to \$F (hex) which, of course, we all recognize as an error; but just pity the poor neophyte who tries to make sense out of that.

On the other hand, assuming your skills have developed to just beyond the beginning level, then I unequivocally recommend this book. I hate to say goodbye to old friends, but Educational Software's *Master Memory Map*, with its frustrating typographical errors, and Atari's own cryptic *Technical Users Notes* might well become seldom used superfluous curiosities on my bookshelf.

Brian Ritter
278-9539

SOFTWARE PREVIEW

AN ATARI/VISICALC CARTRIDGE FOR ATARI COMPUTERS?

Recent rumor-mill scraps would lead us to believe that a new, flexible version of the renown VisiCalc program, by Visicorp of San Jose, will be custom packaged for the Atari Computers.

A recent press-release states that "Atari, Inc. will be the exclusive world wide distributor of VisiCalc for the 800 and 1200" The release goes on to reveal a suggested retail price of \$199.95.

VisiCalc allows the user to manage and manipulate figures in a variety of ways. Designed as an electronic spreadsheet, this much copied program recalculates all related results when numbers or formulas are changed. Thus, the user can easily ask "What if", and instantly see how changing one number affects the bottom line.

While the program is rather expensive compared to most, it has excellent documentation, and is fairly easy to learn and use. A variety of excellent user manuals are available.

Gun jumpers are hoping for new features such as enhanced functions, variable column widths, better line editing, to name a few. We can only wonder if they'll do it right this time.



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DEAR DICK,

Hi, I'm David Heisby, and I've just started off the 'Down South Atari Computer Club.'

I am a technical officer (yr.2) E1
electronics
and know very little about organizing
and the running of a club..
It seems that a lot of people are very
interested...but very very hard to get
off their butts to do anything, they are
interested enough to 'use' but the
'other' not so much (I dont mean that
we are a dead loss) but we could sure
use any ideas or thoughts on how to
make our club a success.

Another big,big problem about Australia
is the high prices (much higher than
your way)(I spent nearly three months
in California attending Cal-Poly
on a computer course last year) and
you guys have got it made....
Hold onto your hats----the Atari 400
(this way) has been reduced to \$567
and the 800 to \$1350 and if that's
not enough try \$799 for an 810 disc--
Programs are another problem and the
HUGE selection you have just does
not exist here cassettes range from \$37-
\$55 and discs \$43-\$60
---business programs---heck try \$365
for VISICALC

I guess its because we are so far away
from where its at that we have this pr
oblem
plus the fact our Government are a
pack of robbing %\$@#*#*#
To get anything in (the official)way
they slap on up to 40% duty plus 15%
sales tax-----I'm not just a
moaner---I was trying to let you know
some of the problems a budding
'users Club' has here and why I would
appreciate ALL and ANY suggestions
you might have to help me along the way
Next month our first Newsletter will
be printed and I will (if you like)
send you a regular copy for your club
and that way we can keep in contact
Sorry to ramble on (They dont call me
motor mouth for nothing)

Please let me know if there is anything
I could perhaps send you from Australia
as a personal gift or maybe to offer as
a door prize in the club.....

Looking forward to hearing from you in
the near future

From my family to yours, God bless,

yours faithfully

David Heisby.

P.S. My equipment is an 800(48k)-810
disc drive-410 cassette-822 printer
a (in repair) MX80 and about 300 various
mixed game/business/utility programs
P.P.S. Would greatly appreciate a copy
of your clubs newsletters

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ETC.

"In one sense, video games represent a new and more addictive use of media. While television provides a spectacle to be passively incorporated, video games provide a perpetually moving scene that must be joined actively with full attention to be fully enjoyed.

"Video games represent a highly sophisticated version of 'pre-scripted toys'. Examples of pre-scripted toys are dolls that are programmed to eat, cry, burp, or wet, thus making it difficult for the child to imagine alternate things for the doll to do. Scripting play for toys heightens the initial attractiveness of the toy. But it also heightens boredom and hastens the time when the young person will abandon it and look for a similar toy with a new script.

"Parents may buy video games out of an ill-formed hope that they will expand the child's imagination and enjoyment of play. This is a misguided notion because in reality both parent and young person have failed to see that imagination is in the play, not in the toy, and both are being seduced into a process of searching for a new, more imaginative toy that has a script that will fix the absence of stimulation and imagination in the play."

- Robert D. Rossel
Psychologist with the
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Burlington, Vermont

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